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FINANCING OF THE MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION FOR THE VERIFICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMITMENTS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 90th plenary meeting, on 31 January 1997, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 53rd and 55th meetings, on 24 and 27 March 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.53 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (A/51/815) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/51/826).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.48

4. At the 55th meeting, on 27 March, the representative of Bangladesh and Vice-Chairman of the Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights" (A/C.5/51/L.48), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.48 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1094 (1997) of 20 January 1997, by which the Council authorized the attachment to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala of a group of 155 military observers and requisite medical personnel for a period of three months,

Recognizing that the costs of the Observer Group are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observer Group, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

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[1] A/51/815.

[2] A/51/826.

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observer Group with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. Urges all Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observer Group in full and on time;

3. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

4. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observer Group is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the Observer Group in accordance with paragraph 15 of his report;[1]

6. Decides to appropriate the amount of 4 million United States dollars gross (3,956,300 dollars net) for the operation of the Observer Group for the period from 15 February to 31 May 1997, inclusive of the amount of 3 million dollars gross (2,949,300 dollars net) already authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994;

7. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion the amount of 4 million dollars gross (3,956,300 dollars net) for the period from 15 February to 31 May 1997 among Member States in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995;

8. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 7 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 43,700 dollars approved for the Observer Group for the period from 15 February to 31 May 1997;

9. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observer Group in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala".